

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 27, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 27, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 13-35, 38-43, 55-58, 61, 67, 70-72, 81-85, 87, 99, 100, 102-108, 112-117, 119-146, 149, and 150 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 141 and 145 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments. Claims 147 and 148 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 141-146 and 148 are rejected; claims 1-6, 8, 10, 13-35, 38-43, 55-58, 61, 67, 70-72, 81-85, 87, 99, 100, 102-108, 112-117, 119-140, 149, and 150 are allowed; and claim 147 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but would be allowable if redrafted in independent form.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 141-146 and 148 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Quigley* (U.S. 6,148,866) in view of *Wood* (US 6,073,692). Claim 141 has been amended to incorporate claim 147. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 147 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but would be allowable if redrafted in independent form. Claim 147 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Patterson

William B. Patterson

Registration No. 34,102

PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.

3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500

Houston, TX 77056

Telephone: (713) 623-4844

Facsimile: (713) 623-4846

Attorney for Applicant(s)